Women engaged in agriculture sector

†3968. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women engaged in the work of sowing, harvesting, weeding, crushing etc. in agriculture sector out of 90.95 million self employed women;

(b) the number of women labour force in the year 1999-2000, 2004-05 and 2006-07;

(c) the amount of contribution of this labour force in the national income; and

(d) how Government define this labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The details regarding number of self employed women engaged in sowing, harvesting, weeding, crushing etc. in agriculture sector are not maintained in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

(b) The estimated number of women labour force was 125.18 million in 1999-2000 and the number increased to 152.95 million in 2004-05 according to the 61st round of NSSO Reports. The data for the year 2006-07 is not available.

(c) There is no mechanism to calculate the contribution of women in GDP separately. However, the contribution of Agriculture Sector in total GDP is 18.3% in 2006-07.

(d) As per the NSSO Survey, a person was treated as an agriculture labour if he/she followed one or more of the following agriculture occupations in the capacity of a labourer on hire, whether paid wholly in cash or kind or partly in cash and partly in kind:

(i) farming including cultivation, tillage etc.;

(ii) dairy farming;

(iii) production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any horticulture commodity;

(iv) raising of livestock, bee-keeping or poultry farming;

(v) any practice performed on a farm as incidental to or in conjunction with farm operations (including any forestry or timbering and the preparation for market or to carriage for transportation to market of farm products).

Allowing of children below 14 to sell ice-cream and soft drinks

3969. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to improve India's poor record on child labour;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government is considering a proposal that allows children below the age of 14 for selling ice-cream or soft drinks; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.